



Benchmarks

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Feature Articles

[Campus Computing News](#)

Dr. Maurice Leatherbury, Senior Director of Academic Computing Services, continues to provide updates on campus computing. This month's news concerns software upgrades on many of our dialup ports to support the recently-ratified V.90 standard for modems, additional Denton Premium Access lines, and software packages that purport to check other software packages for Year 2000 compliance.

[Making Your GroupWise Mail Immortal](#)

If you don't take steps to prevent it, each of your GroupWise mail messages will be deleted when it is 180 days old. This article instructs you on ways to ensure that your messages live on, long after their targeted day of expiration.

[Campus Network Servers Standardized](#)

The Campus Wide Networks Computing Team within the Computing Center will now handle the sales and service of network servers, as well as the installation and support of their operating systems. In conjunction with that is the standardization on a single, industry leading make and model of server. Read this article for complete details.

[Brown Bag Series for Distributed Learning](#)

The Center for Distributed Learning has organized a special interest group for faculty which meets the first Thursday of each month. Read this page also, to find out about the satellite-linked conference entitled "Creating Tomorrow's Learner-Centered Environments -- Today!" that Housing and Residence Life is hosting.

[Don't Change That Date!](#)

As January 1, 2000 creeps closer, you will see more and more articles addressing the possible computer problems associated with that magic number. The more you hear and the more strident the warnings, the more you may be tempted to just set your computer's date to 12/31/1999 and the time to 11:59 p.m. and see what will happen. Read this article to find out why that probably isn't a good idea.

[Bits and Bytes](#)

Every once in awhile we have things that we would like to pass on to you that don't really warrant a separate article. Read this to find out what the Computing Center is doing for Parent's weekend, where to see an IMac, where to get statistics for your Web site, and where to find more new or improved UNT Web pages.

[SAS Software Available at UNT Bookstore](#)

This article provides you with an update on all the statistical software supported by ACS' Research and Statistical Support Office as well as the new licensing agreement with SAS Institute for home distribution of their software.

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Network Connection

By [Dr. Philip Baczewski](#), Associate Director of Academic Computing

What's in a Name?

*a refresher course on Internet addressing
and some new developments in the organization of the internet*

One of the first steps to understanding a concept is applying a name to it. A name helps classify an idea or object and creates a label under which similar ideas or objects can be placed. Names, once adopted in general use, aid communication by implying a longer description to a short label. Whether it's rap music, religious right, Internet technology, global warming, or stock market -- all of those labels instantly expand to multiple concepts and images.

Names are important to the Internet as well. It is names which allow us to identify places and people within that electronic environment. Whether it's greenpeace.org, unt.edu, amazon.com, internic.net, or whitehouse.gov -- all of those names represent large organizations with very differing purposes and identities. Internet names are so important that many companies now identify themselves as much by their internet name as their corporate logo. In fact, the book selling amazon.com, which sprang up completely as an Internet-based business, couches their entire identity in their Internet address. Obviously, on the Internet, there's a lot in a name.

What's in a Domain?

Names like unt.edu and whitehouse.com are only part of the Internet addresses that we are used to working with. Such a name actually identifies a computer network associated with an organization. For example, unt.edu is part of all the addresses used within the University of North Texas' Internet network. In Internet terminology, such a collection of addresses is called a domain.

Domains are organized in hierarchies. If you've used the Internet for a while you recognize some of the top-level hierarchy names such as .edu (educational institutions), .gov (government organizations), .net (Internet network service providers), .org (non-profit organizations), and .com (commercial entities). Another set of top-level domain hierarchy names consists of the two-digit country codes -- .us for the United States, .ca for Canada, .uk for Great Britain, etc.

Domain names can have as many hierarchical levels as necessary. For example, .acs.unt.edu is the Academic Computing Services domain at UNT, .cas.unt.edu is the College of Arts and Sciences domain, etc. Each subdomain can have further levels of hierarchy as necessary to specify the specific services offered by that organization via the Internet network. This is why some Internet addresses can be quite long with multiple parts separated by periods (.).

What's in a number?

Domain names are only half the story when you are talking about internet addresses. Names

are convenient for people, but are not as useful to computer systems. Computer systems are just big calculators at heart and work much more efficiently with numbers than with names. So every Internet address name is associated with a numeric Internet address. Numeric addresses are four sets of three-digit numbers separated by periods. For example, 129.120.209.029 is the numeric equivalent of www.unt.edu.

Most people remember names much more easily than numbers, and names provide an associative reference that helps the memory process and places an object within a learned framework of concepts. That's why at the heart of any Internet network is a system to translate the names that are useful to people into the numbers that are useful to computers.

Domain Names Service (DNS) is critical to the function of what we know as the Internet. DNS consists of a database of names and numbers as well as software to communicate those names and numbers between different computers. Each domain, like unt.edu, has one central computer repository for its names and addresses, although this information can be duplicated on other computers to provide a backup service or increase network efficiency.

These repositories of Internet addresses are called DNS servers. Most Internet software, like Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer, has built-in functionality to connect to a DNS server and translate a name to a number. The number is what your computer uses to make a connection to a remote Internet computer. A local DNS server does not have all the addresses for the entire Internet stored in it. A DNS server can communicate with other DNS servers on the Internet to translate an address within the other server's domain.

What's in a service?

Domain Name Service is obviously very critical to the operation of any Internet network. If DNS "breaks" then unless you know the numeric address for a site, you can't communicate with it. It's kind of like knowing someone's name, but not having a phonebook handy -- it makes it much harder to call them on the phone.

The Internet worldwide is dependent upon a central repository of domain names. In the United States, there have been two government-sponsored organizations which have taken care of the tasks of registering domain names (so that multiple organizations do not end up using the same name) and translating names to numeric addresses. You can find out more about domain name registration by visiting www.internic.net. You can find out more about how Internet address numbers are assigned by visiting www.arin.net.

Next time: In next month's "Network Connection," I'll discuss a new proposal to centralize the registration of Internet names and numbers under one private organization, and how this might be a dramatic turning point in the growth and development.

Is any one reading this??? Address any comments or questions to baczewski@unt.edu.

THE END OF THE INTERNET

Did you ever wonder if there are any dead ends on the Internet? Click [here](#) to find out.
out.n

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List of the Month

Each month we highlight one Internet, USENET Special Interest Group (SIG), or similar mailing list.

PPT: PowerPoint Help and Discussion List

PPT is an open, unmoderated discussion list for users of Microsoft's PowerPoint Presentation software. Subscribers to this list are encouraged to post questions and answers in hopes of helping both new and veteran users.

To subscribe, send the following command in the BODY of mail to listserv@novalinks.com

subscribe ppt *yourfirstname yourlastname*

For example: **subscribe ppt Gord Reid**

Owner: Gord Reid (gord@novalinks.com)

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By [Mark Wilcox](#), Campus Web Administrator

"Who Let Them In?"

This month I will visit the topic of portals and "community" on the Internet.

There has been a great deal of talk in the past few months or so about how "portal" sites are going to be a way to make money on the Internet in the future. Portals are Web sites that are designed to be the entry point for Web surfers. They provide access to links that point to different Web sites. The best known portal site is [Yahoo!](#). If you are saying "But Mark, Yahoo! is an Internet directory," well you are right. Portals are basically just another name for Web directories.

The difference, the pundits say, is that portals go beyond just providing a list of links (which is how most personal pages are set up, so I guess I run a portal site myself :)), but also provide "community" building areas such as free E-mail, chat, games, etc. So far, sites like Yahoo!, Netscape's NetCenter, and America On-Line have done pretty well. They are well-known providers (plus Netscape NetCenter is the default page for most Netscape Web browsers and AOL's homepage is the default for AOL's browsers) and people like to talk. After all, the Web is not the killer Internet application, E-mail is.

The site providers have been able to sell off parts of their sites to advertisers, which in turn helps fund the free services. In many ways this model follows the pre-existing model of television, or even more accurately, the controlled free-magazine subscription model.

Why is this strategy working and will it stick?

The strategy works because a) people like to talk and b) the wave of people that are coming on to the Internet now are not the computer geeks and early technology adopters but more common people. This new wave of folks is looking for something tangible to hang on to as well as something that is easy to use. So, they stick with things they have heard of (particularly if they see advertisers they have heard of). Also, you can't beat the price for most of these systems -> free.

The free E-mail and games are not as advanced as commercial software, but they get the job done for the majority of people. Plus, they are all entirely Web-based so they can be accessed from any Web browser. Thus, there are many people who have E-mail even though they don't own a computer. Usually they access this E-mail from a free-use terminal such as a library, school, or something similar.

These portal providers are helping to build communities because people are talking with each other and that's how you build communities, by people talking -- then doing -- but first they must talk.

A lot has been said about how technology has pushed us farther apart. In some ways it has, but in many ways E-mail has brought us closer together. We may not know our neighbors, but at least on the Internet, we're not just watching passively as stuff is spoon-fed into us. On the other hand, it does help fuel the fires of sensationalism where the more sensational

aspects of a story outweigh any real facts that back it up. Of course, this type of thing happened in the early days of the newspaper, so it too will pass.

I guess what I miss is the newness and wilderness of the early Web. Back then, I was the only person I knew who had actually heard of *Wired* magazine (much less own a subscription to it :)) and Microsoft had not yet awakened to the Internet. But now it's a highly commercialized Web (not that it's bad -- without money, we wouldn't have had many of the improvements we have seen over the past couple of years) and *Wired* is no more (well it's definitely not the magazine it was 3 years ago. I can mark the change->September 1996->First GAP ad in *Wired*!).

I am glad that the Web has taken off, and I'm glad people are making money on it and with its technologies (if they weren't I wouldn't have a job :)), but I'm also depressed about some of the changes. Here's the most depressing thing I have seen to date on the Internet:

INFOSEEK AND DISNEY ANNOUNCE NEW PORTAL--GO NETWORK

Go Network (go.com) will be among top three in traffic

Sunnyvale and Burbank, Calif.-(September 21, 1998) - [Infoseek Corporation](#) (Nasdaq: SEEK) and [The Walt Disney Company](#) (NYSE: DIS) today revealed that the new Internet portal service they are developing will be called Go Network and that it will be available at www.go.com. Go Network will be offered to the public as a preview release later this year, it was announced by Infoseek President and CEO Harry Motro and Buena Vista Internet Group Chairman Jake Winebaum.

According to Relevant Knowledge, and based on the July 1998 Web Report, Go Network will have the third largest unduplicated reach on the Internet, in terms of unique visitors, at launch, and would rank ahead of Microsoft and Netscape, and behind only Yahoo and AOL.

Go Network will answer customers' needs by providing utility, ease-of-use, speed, personalization and choice. Visitors will be able to search the Web using Infoseek's award-winning search and directory technology. In addition, Go Network will provide immediate access to one of the broadest selections of popular branded content on the Internet, addressing audiences from kids, to families, to young adults, to business users, from Network partners such as [Disney](#), [ABC News](#) and [ESPN](#), as well as leading Internet content publishers.

"The Internet is unique in its ability to not just inform and entertain, but to empower individuals to make their lives easier. The Go Network brand will stand for removing barriers from people's lives and fulfilling the true promise of the Internet," said Motro. "Go Network will launch with one of the largest and broadest consumer bases on the Internet. We intend to exceed our customers' expectations and in doing so, we expect our user base to expand rapidly."

"This alliance brings together an incredible combination of assets: great content, strong brands, superior technology and tremendous marketing horsepower," said Winebaum. "Go Network is an exciting new brand and product that we will put our collective resources behind."

"Go Network is a cutting-edge initiative that fits perfectly with our company's overall mission," said Michael D. Eisner, chairman and CEO of The Walt Disney Company. "And

that mission is to provide quality entertainment and information to audiences at a wide range of established and emerging ventures. The Internet is providing a dynamic new way to engage our audiences in the comfort of their homes. With Go Network, we are making clear that we intend to seize this opportunity and be just a click away from consumers around the globe."

The portal, which was first discussed by the companies as part of a strategic transaction pursuant to which Infoseek would acquire Starwave Corporation, which is majority-owned by Disney and pursuant to which Disney would acquire additional shares of Infoseek Common Stock that would result in them having an approximately 43% stake in Infoseek. Disney would also purchase warrants from Infoseek enabling it, under certain circumstances, to achieve a majority stake in Infoseek over time. This transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including shareholder approval. The launch of the new Internet portal, which is subject to consummation of this transaction, is currently expected to occur in the fourth calendar quarter of 1998.

About Infoseek:

Based in Sunnyvale, Calif., Infoseek Corporation (Nasdaq: SEEK) is a global media company and a leading Internet navigation service with the goal of delivering on the promise of the Internet - to make people's lives easier. In addition to the Infoseek Internet service, Infoseek licenses its Ultraseek Server search and navigation software to companies for their own intranet, extranet and Internet sites.

Infoseek has commerce and/or content arrangements with entities that include AT&T (NYSE: T), Auto-By-Tel, Borders Group, Inc. (NYSE: BGP), CMP Media, Inc. (Nasdaq: CMPX), Datek Online, Inc., Microsoft Corporation (Nasdaq: MSFT), PeopleLink Inc., UPS, and Reuters.

About Buena Vista Internet Group:

Formed in 1997, Disney's Buena Vista Internet Group operates Web sites that include ABC.com, the number one network Web site; Disney.com, the top-ranking kids, family and entertainment site; and Disney's Blast Online, the online service for kids. Buena Vista Internet Group is also the joint venture partner in ABC News Internet Ventures and ESPN Internet Ventures with Starwave Corporation, which operate the Internet's fastest growing news and most popular sports sites respectively.

#

NOTE: This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding the planned new Internet portal service to be named Go Network and the timing of its development and launch that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those set forth in such statements as a result of a number of factors, including, but not limited to the progress and timing of development and launch of the planned new Internet portal service, the costs and timing to promote such service, consumer acceptance and use of the new service, and the increasingly competitive nature of the Internet market. In addition, launch of the planned new portal service is conditioned upon and subject to the consummation of the Infoseek acquisition of Starwave and related transactions with Disney, that are subject to customary closing conditions, including shareholder approval.

This is the press release from "[go.com](http://www.go.com)" a venture between Disney and Infoseek. It's going to be Disney's portal site. The release makes me misty eyed for the old days when instead of a

paragraph of legalese, people just said "This site is under construction."

Until next time.

Mark

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Short Courses

By [Claudia Lynch](#), *Benchmarks* Editor

ACS Short Courses continue to be offered through November. There are courses in SPSS, S-Plus, and Web page creation using FrontPage. Follow [this link](#) if you would like to find out more about ACS short courses and/or register for some.

The Computer Advantage courses, offered through the Human Resources Department, are back for the fall. Because these courses are offered in the Eagle Student Services Center (ESSC) Lab, UNT *students* can also attend the classes. Follow [this link](#) to check on the availability of these courses, which include:

- UNT Home Page & Netscape
- Introduction to Windows 95
- Introduction to Microsoft Word 97
- Advanced Microsoft Word 97 - MailMerge It Together
- Introduction to Microsoft Excel 97 Spreadsheet
- Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint 97 Slide Shows

Customized Short Courses

Faculty members can request customized short courses, geared to their class needs. Other groups can request special courses also. Contact ACS for more information (ISB 119, 565-4068, lynch@unt.edu).

Especially for Faculty and Staff Members

As mentioned above, staff and faculty members can also take courses through the [Human Resources](#) Department. The new [Center for Distributed Learning](#) is offering courses especially for Faculty Members. Topics this semester include Windows 95, PowerPoint, Planning Your Course, Basic Video Conferencing, Multimedia, and a series of classes concerning putting course materials on the World Wide Web.

Alternate Forms of Training

The [Training](#) Web site has all sorts of information about alternate forms of training. Training tapes, Computer Based Training (CBT) and Web-based training are some of the alternatives offered.

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IRC News



Minutes provided by Sue Ellen Richey,
Recording Secretary

IRC Regular Voting Members: Ginny Anderson, Fiscal Affairs; Walter Bowen, Academic Administration; Bill Buntain, Communications Program Group; Carolyn Cunningham, Student Affairs; Paul Dworak, College of Music; Steve Grant, UNT Health Science Center; Don Grose, Libraries; Jenny Jopling, Instruction Program Group; Joneel Harris, Administrative Program Group; Mike Kozak, Faculty Senate; Allen Livingston, Student Association; Steve Miller, Human Resources; Dennis Mueller, Research Program Group; Ramu Muthiah, School of Community Services; Robert Nimocks, Director, Information Technology, UNTHSC; Patrick Pluscht, Distributed Learning Team; Jim Poirot, College of Education; Don Schol, School of Visual Arts; Kathleen Swigger, College of Arts and Sciences; Neal Tate, University Planning Council; Philip Turner, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for Distance Education and Dean of the School of Library and Information Resources (Chair, IRC); Virginia Wheless, Chancellor; John Windsor, College of Business. **IRC Ex-officio Nonvoting Members:** Jim Curry, Microcomputer Maintenance Shop; Richard Harris, Computing Center; Coy Hoggard, Computing Center; Maurice Leatherbury, Computing Center; Sue Ellen Richey, Computing Center (Recording Secretary); Rondel Stevens, Telecommunications.

No new IRC minutes were available at publication time. To see past IRC minutes, consult our [back issues](#).n

IRC Meeting Schedule

The [IRC](#) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Administration Building Board Room. All meetings of the IRC, its program groups, and other committees, are open to all faculty, staff, and students.n

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Staff Activities

Transitions

The following are new employees:

- **Shannon Leach**, part-time Clerical Assistant.
- **Lance Harris**, part-time student assistant in Data Communications.
- **Barbara Heffley**, new/returning employee on the UNT/HSC Fiscal Data Systems Team.
- **Kevin Lamonte**, part-time Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultant.
- **Chris Kolquist**, part-time Helpdesk Microcomputer Consultant.

The following person is no longer working in the Computing Center:

- **Srinivas Konchada**, part-time I/O operator.

Promotions, Transfers, and Other Changes

- **Bob Saringer**, formerly in Data Communications is now a CATV/Communications Technician in Telecommunications.
- The Network and Microcomputer Support area of the Computing Center has been re-named **Networking and Communications Services** to reflect additional duties that area has taken on. **Bill Buntain**, Director of that division has had a corresponding title change. He is now **Director of Networking and Communications Services**.

Publications, Presentations

- **Dr. Karl Ho**, Research and Statistical Support Services Manager, and Dr. Steve Poe, NT Associate Professor of Political Science, presented a paper at the Hinman Symposium on Democratization and Human Rights held at Binghamton University in New York between 9/25 and 9/26. The paper, "Measuring Realization of Women's Human Rights to Equality on a Global Cross-National Basis." was also co-authored with Deirdre Wendel-Blunt of the University of Iowa.
- **Mark Wilcox**, Campus Web Administrator, has become a regular columnist for Netscape's [DevEdge Online - View Source Magazine](#). His first column, "[Embedding Netscape Directory Server in Your Application Using the C and Java Directory SDKs](#)," certainly has the folks at Netscape singing his praises. According to them, the article is a "must-read for anyone using Netscape Directory Server in an application. Copy his code and paste it into your application, and--voila!--it will be LDAP-enabled. No wonder we call Mark 'the LDAP Heavyweight'." n

KWM.NET and DRL Systems Announce Integration Agreement

29 September 1998

For media information contact: K. Vinmulet, <kwm@kwm.net>

For customer inquiries: Dianne Alaak, S.O., <drm@kwm.net>

DENTON, Tx. - DRL Systems announced to today that pending J.P. approval, they will merge with kwm.net on 7 November, 1998, creating a new family of horizontal integration products. DRL Systems is the widely-regarded manufacturer of the protocol Suite Host Assessment Rating for TCP (Suite HART). KWM.NET, as some readers will remember, developed the Bandwidth Actualization Dynamics and Packet User Network System (BADPUNS).

Sources inside the merger say that integration and development activities to date have yielded several pre-release products such as Solaris Management Open-System Optical Character Hashing (SMOOCH), as well as an as-yet unnamed technique of high-bandwidth neural network synching of push servers over physical media, which when combined with existing enabling technologies (or rather, the lack thereof) will result in UNIX System Managers that fork a new subprocess every couple of years.

Concurrent with the merger will be the release of KWM.NET's new video game, "Geek World", in which players work their way through along recursive maze of obstacles, only to have all the points they'd ever want unexpectedly showered on them all at once.

Both DRL Systems and KWM.NET are privately held companies with offices in two locations in Denton, TX.

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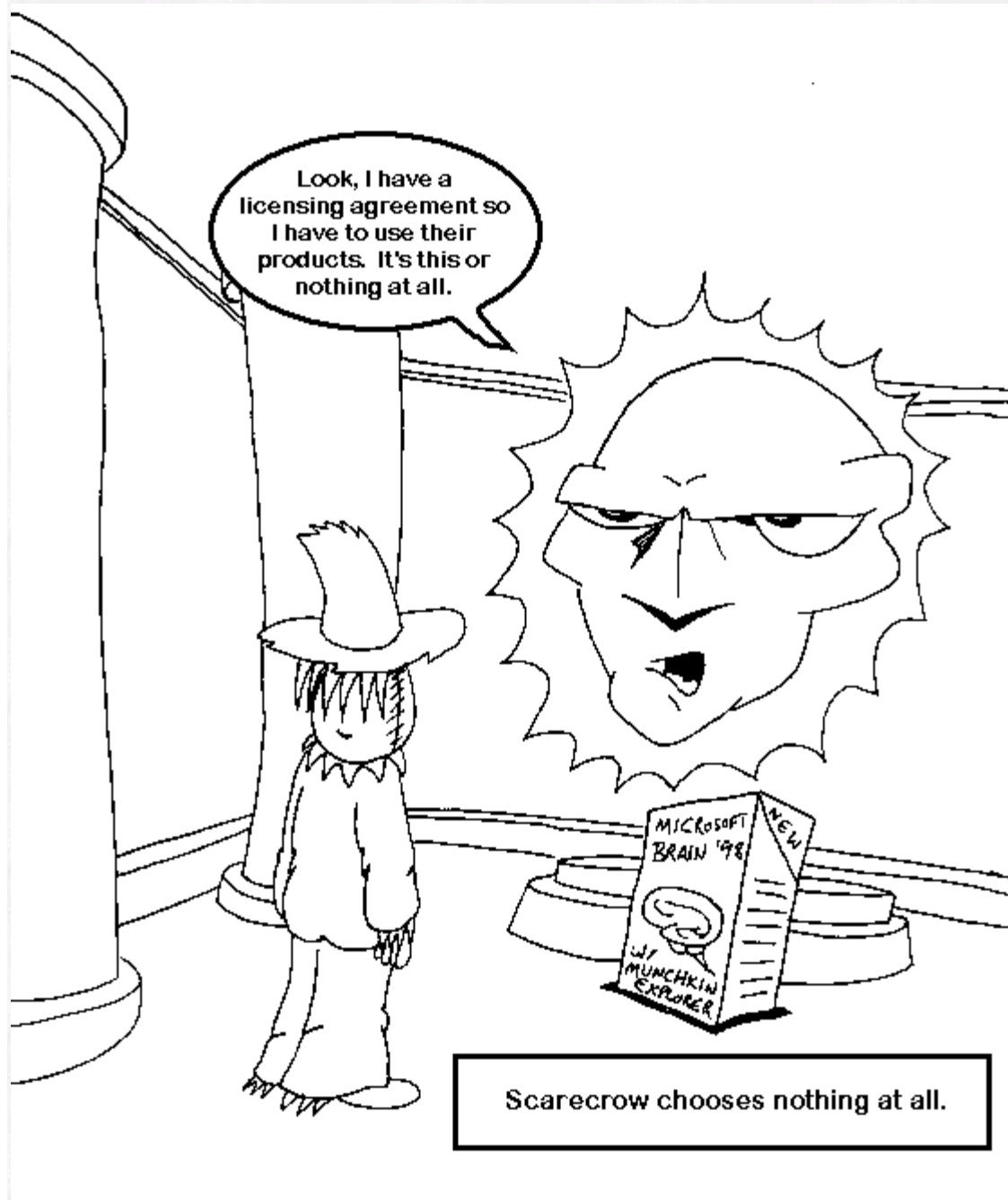
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By [Randal Milholland](#), Documentation Assistant



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SUBscribe unt-benchmarks *your name*

For example: SUBscribe unt-benchmarks Jane Doe

To **Unsubscribe**:

1. Send the e-mail to listserv@unt.edu
2. In the body of the message type:

Signoff unt-benchmarks

3. Send.

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